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HERE is no questioning the beauty of a well-laid, highly-polished hardwood floor. Indeed, this is only one of its many good points. Let us consider a few of them. To begin with, durability: a well-laid, well-cared-for floor will outlast one generation at least, and that in itself is econ-

omy. Health, too, is a great consideration.

Modern researches show us that some of the most fatal diseases are caused by the almost infinitesimal microbes and bacilli that float in the atmosphere. That the dust and dirt held by the carpet in constant use—no matter how well cared for—will contain these pests is beyond question.

A room closely fitted with carpet, which is a mere dust container, cannot be otherwise than unhealthy, and the present fashion of abandoning the custom and substituting in its place parquetry, with rugs or square centre carpets, is an important step towards effecting an improvement in the sanitary condition of our homes. Many a sufferer from weak lungs would be saved a fit of coughing, and throat and lung diseases would not be aggravated by the particles of dust if their use was more general.

Another important factor will appeal directly to the careful "home-keeper." In order to prove how much time and labor may be saved by the use of such floors, it is only necessary to call her attention to the fact that housecleaning once or twice a year means the house must be turned topsy-turvy to take up the carpets, in order to free them from dust, and clean the floors. The surface of the hardwood floor, on the other hand, can be kept clean by wiping up the dust with a cloth and

shaking it out of the window. The rugs may be taken out and cleaned as often as necessary.

We read and hear much now-a-days about "hygienic homes," and the resulting improvement in health and comfort, but do we realize how important a part our floor coverings play in the general result? Wood carpet and American parquetry are not, as many people suppose, a temporary covering to be laid down and taken up at pleasure. It is a permanent new floor on top of the old one, carefully fitted into all the offsets, and around all the projections of the room. It is firmly nailed down with small brads, the holes puttied to match the color of the wood, and when finished has the appearance of a thick European floor.

We make in this country a thin parquetry in the same elaborate and beautiful designs as are used in foreign countries, by the process of gluing the wood on cloth, instead of on another piece of wood. The advantages are evident; the old floor can be utilized, as the thickness of parquetry is only five-sixteenths of an

inch, instead of seven-eighths, as with the thick imported parquetry.

Wood carpet was the name originally given to the first thin goods; these were made in rolls of narrow slats of ash, walnut, oak and other woods, glued to muslin, and used with plain straight borders.

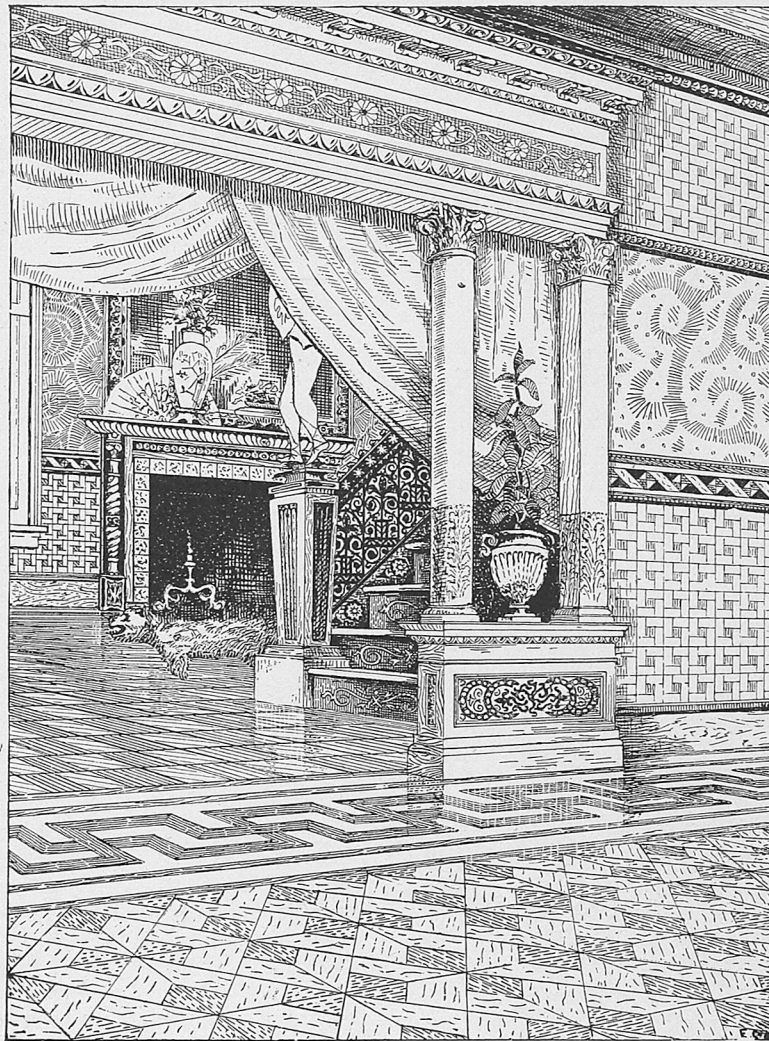
Thin goods, both plain and fancy, are made of slats of wood five-sixteenths of an inch thick, glued to strong muslin, and carefully seasoned and smoothed ready for laying. If properly laid and cared for they will last for generations, retaining both pattern and color until worn through.

Parquetry floors is the European name for ornamental floors and borders. These goods are made both five-sixteenths as well as seven-eighths inches thick. The uses of these goods are many. They may be applied not only for floors, but for wainscoting, walls and ceilings, with results equally good.

The best finish for hardwood floors to dry them quickly is white shellac or wax. Butcher-

er's Boston Polish is the best for this purpose; when properly applied it can be brought to a high degree of polish that is almost indestructible.

We are indebted to Messrs. Boughton & Terwilliger, Twenty-third Street and Fifth Avenue, for the illustration and information in this article, to whom we refer our readers for further intelligence on this subject.



INTERIOR SHOWING THE USES OF PARQUETRY. BY BOUGHTON & TERWILLIGER, NEW YORK.